

12.22 hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

First Report

[English]

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV (Khargone) : I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1980) on the 'Cost of Operation of Railways (Staff and Fuel Cost)'.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Report of Study Tours

[English]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Study Tours of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :

- (i) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group I of the Committee on its visit to Bombay, Aurangabad and Hyderabad during July, 1985.
- (ii) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group II of the Committee on its visit to Bangalore, Cochin and Madras during July, 1985.

STATEMENT RE. : CONSTITUTION OF A COMMISSION ON PUNJAB ISSUES

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

Sir, according to paragraph 7.2 of the Memorandum of Settlement dated the 24th July, 1985 signed by the Prime Minister of India and the President of Shiromani Akali Dal on the Punjab issues, a Commission is required to be constituted to determine the specific Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab which should go to Haryana, in lieu of Cnandigarh. In pursuance of this provision, the Government of India have appointed a Commission consisting of Shri Justice K.K. Mathew, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The Commission shall apply the principles of contiguity and linguistic affinity with village as a unit for such determination and may also take into consideration such other factors as it may deem relevant or appropriate. The Commission is to make its recommendations to the Government of India not later than the 31st October, 1985. A Resolution constituting the Commission has been published in the Official Gazette on 20th August, 1985.

STATEMENT RE. : ASSASSINATION OF SANT HARCHAND SINGH LONGOWAL, PRESIDENT, SHIRO- MANI AKALI DAL AND A SHOOT- ING INCIDENT AT JALANDHAR

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I rise to make a statement on a very sad and grave tragedy that has taken place in the death of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, President of Shiromani Akali Dal and on the shooting incident at Jalandhar resulting in the death of Shri D.D. Khullar, a Congress (I) leader.

A conference of Istri Akali Dal was organised at Gurdwara Akal Prakash, Sherpur Village, district Sangrur, on 20th August, 1985. There was a congregation of about 5,000 persons. Santji had just finished speaking and was receiving Saropas when around 5.40 P.M. Santji was fired upon. The bodyguard of Santji fired towards the assailants as a result of which

one assailant suffered injuries. The injured person and another assailant were apprehended. The third person managed to escape.

Two .455 revolvers, each alongwith five (5) empty cartridges and one live cartridge have been recovered from the assailants.

Immediately after the incident a Deputy Superintendent of Police, who was incharge of Sant Longowal's security, forthwith took Santji to the Civil Hospital at Sangrur but in spite of immediate medical attention Santji succumbed to his injuries. In the shooting which took place within the precincts of the Gurdwara one more person was killed and some others were injured.

The State Government had made arrangements to provide security to Sant Longowal at his place of residence, during his road journeys and at known places of meetings etc. Inside the Gurdwara, a security team of plain clothed police personnel was available with Santji. In addition, an S.P. with a group of commandos had already positioned themselves in the Gurdwara before the arrival of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. It is most unfortunate that in spite of all these arrangements, this dastardly event has taken place.

It is with a sense of anguish that I have also to inform about the shooting incident at Jalandhar on 20th August, 1985. Three unidentified persons came in a car to the residence of Shri Gurdial Saini, ex-M.L.A. They parked the car outside the house. Two of them went inside the house and sprayed bullets on Shri Gurdial Saini, Shri D.D. Khullar, a Congress (I) leader and others. After committing the crime, the assailants managed to escape. Shri Saini and Shri Khullar who were seriously injured, were rushed to the hospital. Shri Khullar succumbed to his injuries, Shri Saini is reported to be out of danger. Another person who was injured in this incident is also out of danger. The

car used in the crime was found abandoned in the city. A case has been registered in connection with this incident and efforts are afoot to apprehend the culprits. Both, Shri Saini and Shri Khullar were provided with police gunmen, but at the time of incident, the gunmen were not present. For their negligence they have been placed under suspension. On search of the car used in this crime, 4 live cartridges of .455 bore revolver have been recovered.

The State Government have alerted the concerned authorities in the State to be vigilant and to take necessary steps to curb terrorists activities to apprehend culprits involved in the two incidents.

Sant Harchand Singh Longowal had shown statemanship and great sagacity in finding a solution to the Punjab problem. In the cause of peace and communal harmony he has sacrificed his life. I hope that the bullets that killed him will not silence the cause that he so boldly espoused. I am sure that all Members of the House will join millions of our countrymen in expressing a deep sense of shock at this national tragedy.

STATEMENT RE. : SETTING UP OF THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENTS RELATING TO CLASHES ON ASSAM-NAGALAND BORDER

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : The House will recall the statement of Home Minister on the 23rd July, 1985 in reply to the Calling Attention Motion pertaining to the armed clashes between the Assam and Nagaland Police in June 1985 at Merapani on the Assam Nagaland border, that it had been decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of